Forces Acts empower the competent authorities to remit, mitigate or commute the sentence where so warranted. The aggrieved personnel also have right to seek redressal in appropriate courts. In some cases the High Courts or the Supreme Court have provided suitable relief to the petitioners.

In the existing system of administration of justice in the Armed Forces, there is no provision for an independent adjudicatory form for hearing appeals against the judgment of Courts Martial or for hearing complaints of defence personnel relatting to service matters. The Supreme Court, Law Commission and the Estimates Committee of Parliament had earlier drawn attention to this aspect and made recommendations in this regard. The issue was also engaging the attention of the Government for quite some time. After careful consideration the Government has proposed to set up an independent Armed Forces Tribunal and accordingly a Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2005. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence by the Hon'ble Speaker for examination. The Standing Committee in its 10th report related to Armed Forces Tribunal Bill, 2005, presented to the Lok Sabha on 23rd May 2006 and laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on the same date, have made several recommendations on the Bill.

The Standing Committee has also suggested that an Expert Committee be constituted to thoroughly review the Service Acts to bring them in tune with the norms being followed in other democratic countries. The Standing Committee has further desired that since the proposed Tribunal would deal with cases of all the three forces, a common disciplinary code be made so as to bring uniformity in dispensation of justice to the Armed Forces Personnel.

Amendments in Labour Laws

*45. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and other labour laws, in order to facilitate and encourage foreign investments;

(b) the areas in which amendments are contemplated;

(c) whether there was any proposal to replace the whole of the Industrial Disputes Act;

(d) whether the proposal is still under consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the emerging needs of economy, including promotion of investment both domestic and foreign, Bills to amend the Factories Act, 1948, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Extablishment) Act, 1988 and Apprentices Act, 1961 have been introduced in the Parliament. There is no proposal to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Social Security Scheme for workers

*46. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce a National Minimum Social Security Scheme for workers in the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) has submitted its report to the Government on Social Security for the Unorganized Sector Workers in May, 2006. It's recommendations, amongst others, include that any worker registered with the National Social Security Scheme for the unorganized workers, on payment of prescribed contribution, shall be entitled to National Minimum Social Security benefits including health insurance, maternity benefit, insurance to cover natural death and death due to accident, old age pension